

IN THE CLAIMS:

29. (previously amended) A non-anodized article of manufacture having a fractal surficial structure which includes both valve metal and an oxide thereof, the valve metal being selected from the group consisting of aluminum, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, silicon, thorium, cadmium and tungsten.

30. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein said surficial structure is self-similar between a length scale of between about 2 microns and 0.2 microns.

31. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein said valve metal is aluminum.

32. (original) A capacitor comprising the article of manufacture of claim 29.

33. (original) An anodized electrode comprising the article of manufacture of claim 29.

34. (previously amended) An electrode comprising:
an electrically conductive substrate; and
a discontinuous non-anodized layer, of an oxide of a first valve metal, on a surface of said substrate.